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As a state, we are in the unique position to lead the nation in compassion toward companion dogs. We can stop the sale of dogs from puppy mills or commercial breeders. We have already passed legislation that requires genetically modified food to be labeled and we are on the precipice of passing legislation that would increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

The next thing to do is to ban the sale of puppy mill dogs from commercial breeders. To be clear, a puppy mill is a large-scale commercial breeding operation where profits are given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs.

As a rescuer, I have first-hand experience of dogs from puppy mills. We had one foster dog who never stopped spinning in circles. No matter how much our behaviorist worked with her, she could not be trained to be still. Eventually, we euthanized her because that was the kindest action to take.

We had other dogs come into our foster system whose fur was so badly matted that all we could do is shave them down to the skin over their entire body. Their nails were so long they were curling over into their pads. These are examples of how dogs are treated at commercial breeding operations.

The Animal Welfare Act provides scant protection for dogs and puppies born and living in puppy mills. For example, breeders are not required to provide veterinary care, exercise,

socialization, solid flooring in their cages or down time between litters. This is particularly heinous because dogs are killed when they are "spent" after several years of breeding.

We are asking that pet stores be prohibited from selling dogs from commercial breeders.

We can show the nation that Connecticut knows compassion and good sense. We've already shown that we care about human health by requiring genetically modified food be labeled and that people earn a living wage. Let's show that we care about man's and woman's best friend, too, because it's the right thing to do.

Animal protection is Job One,

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Animal protection through humane education and rescue/adoption

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